

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 02518 080737Z

21

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05

SAB-01 SAM-01 NIC-01 MC-02 ACDA-05 /070 W

----- 034000

R 080645Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0859

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 2755

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECDEF WASHDC

USMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2518

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, IR

SUBJECT: IRANIAN LANCE MISSILE REQUEST

REF: A. STATE 17420 (NOTAL)

B. JIDDA 6840, NOV 21, 1974 (NOTAL)

C. JIDDA 7360, DEC 16, 1974 (NOTAL)

1. REF C EXPRESSED OUR VIEW OF GENERAL POLICY CONSIDERATIONS ON ISSUES OF SORT RAISED REF A. IN CASE AT HAND, IMPACT OF DECISION TO RELEASE LANCE MISSILE TO IRAN WILL BE TO A. STIMULATE EVENTUAL REQUEST FROMSAG AND B. CONTRIBUTE TO SAG CONCERN OVER GROWING IRANIAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

2. SAUDI'S ARE ALREADY AWARE OF LANCE MISSILE AND ARE AWARE OF ITS POTENTIAL TO CARRY A NUCLEAR WARHEAD, HAVING MOTED ISRAELI DESIRE FOR MISSILE. THOUGH SAUDI TERRITORY WOULD BE OUT OF RANGE OF MISSILES LAUNCHED FROM IRANIAN TERRITORY, SAG WOULD NOTE THAT KIRKUK, BAGHDAD, BASRA, AND
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KUWAIT ARE NOT. ACQUISITION OF LANCE BY IRAN WOULD BE

SIMPLY ANOTHER FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO SAUDI UNEASINESS OVER
IRAN AND HER INTENTIONS TOWARD HER NEIGHBORS FIVE OR TEN
YEARS FROM NOW.

3. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO ENCOURAGE SAG MILITARY APPETITES
MORE THAN NECESSARY. SAG IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, TO CONTINUE
TO PRESS FOR EVIDENCE OF EQUAL STANDING WITH GOI, WHERE
QUALITY RPT QUALITY OF ARMS IS CONCERNED (REFS B & C).
IF DECISION IS MADE TO RELEASE LANCE TO IRAN, WE CAN
EXPECT SAUDI INTEREST IN LANCE TO INCREASE SHORTLY AFTER
NEWS OF DECISION APPEARS IN AVIATION WEEK. THIS MAY NOT
RESULT IN IMMEDIATE REQUEST FROM SAG FOR LANCE, BUT IT WILL
EVENTUALLY.
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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